



MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926

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September 2014



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NEVER FORGET
WE THE PEOPLE

★ The Pentagon ★

COURAGE STRENGTH BRAVERY

AMERICA

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

NEW YORK CITY

flight 11 + flight 175 + flight 77 + flight 93

UNITED WE STAND

Shanksville, Pennsylvania

GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE

TWIN TOWERS

FREEDOM JUSTICE LIBERTY

REMEMBER

9 11 2001

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider



- ◆ 2 out of 5 U.S. Children Expected to Develop Diabetes as Adults. Forty percent of U.S. children born between 2000 and 2011 are expected to develop type 2 diabetes at some point in their life, which is double the rate for men and 50 percent higher for women born two decades earlier, a new CDC study estimates.
- ◆ Natural Light in Day Linked to Better Sleep at Night. In a small study of daytime workers with and without windows nearby, workers with more exposure to natural light slept longer and better at night, got more exercise, and had a better quality of life.
- ◆ 5 Servings of Vegetables and Fruits a Day Reduces Risk of Death by 25%. Each serving of vegetables and fruit a day lowers the risk of death from all causes by five percent, up to a maximum of 25%, a new analysis of past dietary studies finds.

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Email submissions (in Microsoft Word) and photos to lharris@mfc.state.ms.us.

September 911 Remembrance Day

Patriots Day occurs on September 11th each year to commemorate the 2,966 people killed in the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks.

On this day the American flag is flown at half mast at the White House, all American government buildings at home and overseas and American homes. The President also requests that the American public observe a minute of silence beginning at 8.46a.m. EST. This is the time of the first plane crash into the World Trade Center on September 11th 2001.

I doubt anyone will ever forget where they were on the morning of September 11, 2001, when they heard of the attacks on the twin World Trade Towers in NYC and the Pentagon in Washington. This horrible and tragic day is etched forever in our memories.

Like the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought us into World War II, the 911 attacks led us into a new war... the war on terrorism. It also touched and changed forever, the lives of each and every American.

On the anniversary of 911, we encourage you to spend a few minutes reflecting upon this event, and praying for the victims who died, and their families and friends.

911 Facts & History

- ✎ On the morning of September 11, 2001, nineteen Islamic al-Qaeda militants hijacked four planes. The hijackings occurred from Boston, Newark and Washington airports. The planes selected were long distance flights, which would have more fuel in the tanks.
- ✎ One plane each hit the north and south towers of the World Trade Center in New York city. The planes and engulfing firestorm, ultimately brought down both towers.
- ✎ A number of other buildings were also damaged or destroyed. Most notably was the Marriott hotel, which was also destroyed.
- ✎ A third plane hit the Pentagon in Washington, DC.
- ✎ The fourth hijacked plane ultimately crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA. Pas-

sengers on the plane learned of the fate of the other planes, and unsuccessfully attempted to take back control of the plane from the suicidal hijackers. Everyone aboard died.

911 Numbers

- ✎ Total Victims: 2,996, including the 19 hijackers and 2,977 victims.
 - On four planes: 246
 - New York City: 2,606 in the towers and on the ground
 - Pentagon: 125
- ✎ Nearly all the victims were civilians; 55 military personnel were among the killed at the Pentagon.
- ✎ The civilians killed were from more than 90 different countries.


Patriot Day
September 11,
2014

Labor Day

Dedicated in honor of the worker, it is also appropriately called the "workingman's holiday". The holiday is dedicated to you in respect and appreciation for the work you do in or outside of the home, union or non-union, big company, small companies, or government. As long as you work somewhere at something, this holiday is for you!

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City on September 5, 1882 and was started by the Central Labor Union in New York City. In 1884, it was moved to the first Monday in September where it is celebrated today. Labor Day quickly became popular and one state after another voted it as a holiday. On June 28, 1894, the U.S. congress voted it a national holiday.

Labor Day is also viewed as the official end of summer. While the Fall Equinox is still a couple of weeks away, kids go back to school and summer vacations are over. So this marks the end of the season. Many people celebrate this weekend with one last picnic. It is also the date that many peo-

ple close up the pool, and put away the boats.

Was it McGuire or Maguire? Either Peter McGuire or Matthew Maguire is the Creator of Labor Day. Peter J. McGuire, was an active labor organizer. He was also general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor. He was believed to be the first to suggest a day be dedicated to American workers and their accomplishments. Matthew Maguire however, was secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York in 1882 and many believed that he proposed the holiday in 1882.

Labor Day Numbers

- **155.2 Million** - number of people 16 and older in the nation's labor force in June 2012.
- **26.3 Million** - number of female workers 16 and older in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2010.
- **23.7 Million** - number of male workers 16 and older in management, professional and related occupations in 2010.
- **5.9 Million** - the number of people who worked from home in 2010.
- **16.3 Million** - the number of commuters who left for work between midnight and 5:59 a.m. in 2010. They represent 12.5% of all commuters.
- **3.2 Million** - the number of workers who faced extreme commutes to work of 90 or more minutes each day in 2010.
- **25.3 Minutes** - the average time it took people in the nation to commute to work in 2010.
- **76.6%** - the number of workers who drove alone to work in 2010.
- **9.7%** - the number of workers who car-pooled to work in 2010.
- **4.9%** - the number of workers who took public transportation (excluding taxi cabs) to work in 2010.
- **\$47,715** - the 2010 real median earning for male full-time, year-round workers.
- **\$36,931** - the 2010 real median earning for female full-time, year-round workers.
- **85%** - the number of full-time workers 18 to 64 covered by health insurance during 2010.

September's Birthdays



Joey Hitchcock -1
 Rebekah Olander -1
 George Davis -2
 Russell Jones -3
 RC Bownes -4
 William Wilson -4
 Allen Nunley -5
 Matilda Fleming -6
 Dudley Jones -8
 Lynn Conley -10
 Nathan Daley -10
 James Parker -11
 Emily Goss -12
 John Rowley -13
 John Jones -14
 Stanley Parker -14
 Christopher Ivey -15
 Odis Johnson -15
 Troy McCluskey -15
 Mitchell Whatley -15
 Cheryl Arnold -16
 Jimmie Gaines -16
 Matthew Reed -16
 Michael Hoda -17
 Jeffrey King -18
 Kevin Melton -18
 Gerald Farmer -19
 Russell Garrett -19
 Ronald Adcock -22
 Janice Baker -22
 John Lett -22
 Allen Spencer -22
 Lacie Wilkerson -22
 Steven Williams -22
 Leslie Blackwell -24
 Joelette Bembry -25
 Tommy Rutland -25
 Phillip South -27
 Michael Street -28
 Robbin Dickerson -29



NEW HIRES

- Joelette Bembry, Forester, Forest Health, SWD
- John Lett, Forester Trainee, Forrest County, SED
- Jermion Jones, Forest Ranger, Wilkinson County, SWD
- Martin McDaniel, Forest Ranger, County, NED

SAYING



TO OUR FRIENDS

- James D. Johnson, Forest Ranger, Stone County, SED
- James Craig Oswalt, Forestry Technician, Webster County, ECD
- Braxton Coby Perigin, Forest Ranger, Webster County, ECD



Leaves:

Type: simple, alternate, tardily deciduous

Size: 5.0" - 6.0" long; 1.0" - 2.0" wide

Margin: wavy-toothed

Apex: acuminate or acute

Base: tapered

Shape: oblong

Color: dark green above; pale below

Surface: glabrous, leathery above; pubescent below

Venation: pinnate

Twigs:

Size: stout

Color: gray-brown

Surface: pubescent; lenticels scattered, small, elevated; leaf scar half-round; single large horizontal bundle scar

Buds:

Size: terminal bud 1.0" long; laterals small, embedded

Shape: terminal ovoid acute

Color: brown

Surface: terminal 4-scaled, ciliate on margins

Fruit and Flowers:

Drupe: dry

Size: 0.5" long; seed small

Shape: drupe cylindrical; seed ovoid

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

Color: green young; brown mature

Flower: monoecious; perfect; at first surrounded by 3 oblong, overlapping bracts; flowers on

stout, short, silky stalks; petals 5, white, 0.5" long; orange anthers

Bark: gray to brown; thin; smooth to slightly furrowed; corky/warty outgrowths

Physical Attributes:

Form: single or multiple stem

Size: 15.0' - 30.0', mature

Growth Rate: moderate; 8.0' maximum@ 20 yrs

Life Span: long (>100 yrs)

Tolerances:

Shade: medium

Drought: high

Fire: high

Anaerobic: moderate (seasonal)

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: understory on moist, rich forest soils and along stream banks and swamp margins

Soil Texture: medium - coarse

Soil pH: 4.5 - 7.5

Range: along the eastern U.S. coastal states from Delaware; south to Florida; west to eastern Texas and Arkansas; in Mississippi, approximately one-half the State east of a line running

from the northeast corner to the southwest corner

Wildlife Value and Uses:

seeds eaten by birds; nectar insect attractant; larval host - King's hairstreak butterfly; browsed by deer and domestic animals; very important browse plant in longleaf pine regions; over 50% utilization indicates overstocked range

Timber Value and Uses:

no commercial value

Landscaping Info:

not commonly found in nurseries; most collected from the wild and propagation success may be minimal

Other Facts: colonists made a bright yellow dye by boiling the leaves and inner bark

WHO AM I?



Odds & Ends Forestry News

University of Washington Research Shows Value of Community Engagement

Seattle, WA - A new University of Washington literature review finds that place attachment and meaning are particularly relevant when considering issues of urban development and community-building. Attachment and meaning are often related to parks, green spaces, and natural areas. This connection may serve to promote and encourage environmentally responsible behavior.

trees are saving more than 850 human lives a year and preventing 670,000 incidences of acute respiratory symptoms. The human health effects of reduced air pollution are valued at nearly \$7 billion every year.

Aspens, a keystone species, disappearing from forests of the West.

[Associated Press]. [More.](#)

"Seamless corridor of urban development" could engulf one-tenth of Southeast forests in 50 years.

[Washington Post]. [More.](#)

Family forest owners make the case for role of forests in slowing climate change. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette]. [More.](#)

Debate intense over whether to remove dead trees after wildfire, or let nature take its course. [Associated Press]. [More.](#)

Trees save lives, prevent respiratory illness and save \$7 billion in health costs, says U.S. Forest Service. [Nature World News]. [More.](#)

NASA cameras offer first-time view of Alaska's "hidden forests" - bigger than California but not on any map. [LiveScience]. [More.](#)

Nightcrawlers are the latest invasive to threaten Great Lakes region's forests. [Columbus Dispatch] [More.](#)

Virginia Tech Demonstrates New Method To Treat Ash Firewood.

The shiny green one-half-inch-long, one-eighth-inch-wide emerald ash borer has destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in the U.S. since the beetle's discovery in 2002 in Detroit. - [More.](#)

Woodland Pinedrops

Woodland pinedrops is a tall, reddish-purple plant with a sticky, unbranched stem. It has small, white to pink, urn-shaped flowers which hang upside-down. The leaves are small and scale-like. [More.](#)

NATIONAL NEIGHBORWOODS® MONTH

Washington, DC - National NeighborWoods® Month is ACTrees' annual campaign to plant and care for community trees during the month of October. Since 2005, over 170,000 volunteers have planted over 300,000 trees in all 50 states during National NeighborWoods® Month.

Trees Remove Air Pollution Helping to Improve Health and Save Lives

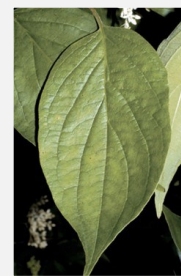
Syracuse, NY - In the first broad-scale estimate of air pollution removal by trees nationwide, U.S. Forest Service scientists and collaborators calculated that

LABOR DAY

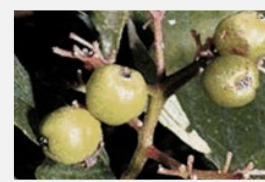
Tree Knowledge -

Who Am I?

August 2014 was the Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*). Check out page 177 in the Mississippi Trees book.



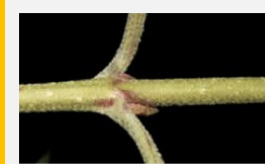
Leaf



Fruit



Bark



Twig



Form

Benefit Enrollment Schedule 2015

Everyone,

Below is the schedule for the Benefit Enrollment Sessions that we do each year.

As of today, we are not aware of any premium increases. That said, we plan to allow the signature on file option for anyone not wishing to change any of their benefits options. If employees plan to add and/or drop an option, they must attend as they will need to sign the add/drop form, complete enrollment forms if they are adding an option, and of course, they must then sign the SRA form. If, in the meantime, we are notified of any premium changes we will notify you immediately.

Employees wishing to exercise the signature on file option must notify their county/district/office of their intention prior to enrollment. The best way to do this is by email. As your email can be printed and attached to your SRA form. State Office staff or employees at the training center should notify their supervisor and copy me.

Employees are also able to attend the enrollment in any district/office if they are unable to attend the one in their respective district/office. This is also true for our State Office staff and the employees of our agency that travel on a daily basis.

Keep in mind that if your respective district/office requires each of their employees to attend, this notice

does not supersede that directive.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (601) 359-2811.

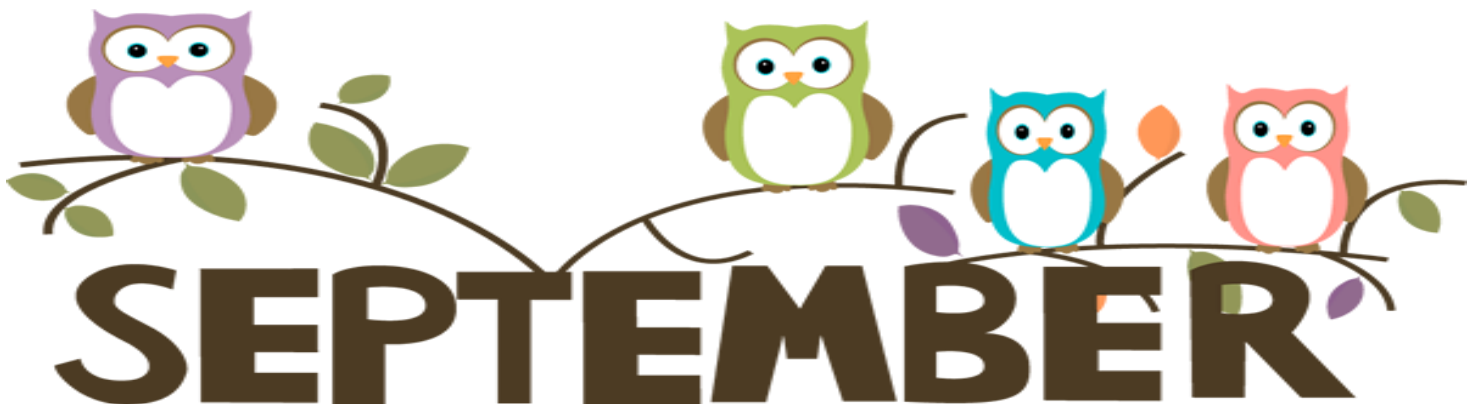
Sincerely,

Jan Baker
Personnel Director
(601) 359-2811 office
jbaker@mfc.state.ms.us

Benefits Enrollment Schedule 2015*

Location	Date	Time
Northwest District (Elliott/Grenada)	Tuesday, September 23, 2014	9:00 a.m.
Northeast District (Tupelo)	Wednesday, September 24, 2014	9:00 a.m.
East Central District (Philadelphia)	Thursday, September 25, 2014	9:00 a.m.
State Office	Monday, September 29, 2014	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Central District (Pearl)	Monday, September 29, 2014	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
South Central District (Bay Springs)	Tuesday, September 30, 2014	9:00 a.m.
Southeast District (Wiggins)	Wednesday, October 1, 2014	9:00 a.m.
Southwest District (Brookhaven)	Thursday, October 2, 2014	9:00 a.m.

* Plan Year (January 1 to December 31, 2015)





Mississippi Firewise

This fall, keep your campfire from becoming a wildfire. While surfing the web, I came across a page from the [Keep Oregon Green Association](#) about campfires.

Did you know that in Oregon, in the last five years, 101 campfires built on state protected lands burned 1,611 acres and cost \$243,000 to suppress?

Did you also know that campfires are the 3rd leading cause of human-caused wildfires? I didn't and this got me thinking ...

So here we are in the heart of campfire season and this advice the Association gives to Oregonians would be great to pass along to anyone planning on camping.

Please do your part to keep the number of human-caused wildfires to a minimum (heck, let's knock wildfires right out of the park for good!). Before you head out to a campsite, review some of the information to the right.



How to keep your campfire from becoming a wildfire....

- **Call before you go** - Call your local forestry or fire district to learn if there are any current campfire restrictions.
- **Select the right spot** - Maintained campgrounds with established fire pits provide the safest venue for campfires. If campfires are allowed outside campgrounds, avoid areas near your tent, structures, vehicles, shrubs and trees, and be aware of low-hanging branches overhead. Clear the site down to mineral soil, at least **five feet** on all sides, and circle your campfire site with rocks. Store your unused firewood a good distance from the fire.
- **Keep your campfire small** - A campfire is less likely to escape control if it is kept small. A large fire may cast hot embers long distances. Add firewood in small amounts as existing material is consumed.
- **Attend your campfire at all times** - A campfire left unattended for only a few minutes can grow into a costly, damaging wildfire. State law requires you to stay with your campfire from start to finish until dead out, to ensure any escaped sparks or embers can be extinguished quickly.
- **NEVER use gasoline** or other accelerants (flammable or combustible liquids) to start or increase your campfire. Once the fire is ignited, wait until the match is cold and then discard it in the fire.
- **Always have water and fire tools on site** - Have a shovel and a bucket of water nearby to extinguish any escaped embers. When you are ready to leave, drown **all** embers with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is DEAD out.
- **Make sure it's out** - Completely extinguish your campfire before leaving. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave. A campfire that appears to be extinguished can harbor heat for weeks. Then, a warm day with a little wind can rekindle the "sleeper fire" into flames.
- **Burn ONLY wood** - State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense, toxic smoke or noxious odors.
- **Escaped campfires are costly** - The Oregon Department of Forestry spent more than \$160,000 in 2013 to suppress unattended and escaped campfires. State law requires the proper clearing, building, attending and extinguishing of open fires any time of year. A first-time citation carries a \$110 fine. If your campfire spreads out of control, you are responsible for the cost of fire suppression. This can range from a few hundred to thousands of dollars.

When it's time to leave the campfire and head to bed or back to town, make sure you put the campfire out – **DEAD OUT!**

Drown all embers, sticks, and coals, especially those that might have fallen under the rocks

Stir the coals to make sure all heat has been removed

Drown the area again

Please remember that wildfire prevention is your individual responsibility. Be alert to weather conditions, especially wind; and ALWAYS be careful with fire.

What Is The Most Famous Wildfire Photograph Ever Taken?



Continued from August 2014 Newsletter. Do you agree that the above picture is the most famous wildfire photography ever taken?

**SAVE THE
DATE**

*Mississippi State Fair
October 1 to October 12,
2014*



Holiday Notice

TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has designated the first Monday in September as the day for the observance of LABOR DAY, and under the provisions of Section 3-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is a legal holiday in the State of Mississippi;

THEREFORE, all officers and employees of the State of Mississippi are authorized and empowered, at the discretion of the executive head of the department or agency, to close their respective offices in observance of the holiday on **Monday, September 1, 2014**



Invasive Species Threatens Delta National Forest

Forest officials are urging visitors not to bring firewood to the Delta National Forest in an effort to reduce the arrival of the emerald ash borer, an invasive species that could result in millions of dollars of damage to timber and substantial disruption to wildlife habitat. The insect has been positively identified in neighboring Arkansas but has not been found on Delta National Forest at this time.

"Don't bring firewood with you when you camp. We want to use every tool available to us to prevent the Delta from losing the Green Ash tree component" said Delta District Ranger Leslie Morgan.

The beetle, an insect native to Asia that was accidentally introduced to North America, spreads when people move infested tree material to non-infested areas. The half-inch long, metallic green beetle, lays eggs on the bark on all species of ash trees. After hatching, its larvae burrow under the bark and create feeding tunnels that cut off nutrient and water flow to the tree. Infested trees eventually die in three to five years. First discovered in southeast Michigan in 2002, the emerald ash borer has spread to 16 states and two Canadian provinces, killing tens of millions of ash trees.

Since 2009, natural resource managers have been monitoring the emerald ash borer and its movement. "The Delta National Forest is now at heightened risk because of the recent detections in nearby Arkansas," said James Meeker, an entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service. "The Delta contains a relatively abundant and widespread population of green ash, and is highly susceptible to infestation and resulting mortality."

Complete eradication of the emerald ash borer is not currently feasible, Morgan added. "We can limit an outbreak and subsequent damage by not bringing firewood to the Delta," Morgan said.

More information about the emerald ash borer can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info/.



MISSISSIPPI WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY

OCTOBER 20 - 31, 2014

SOUTHERN REGIONAL
FIRE TRAINING CENTER

2139 HIGHWAY 468
PEARL, MS 39208



Contact Jeff Ware, State Safety and Training Coordinator at (662) 842-5312 or e-mail: jware@mfc.state.ms.us for more information. Check out this link: http://www.mfc.ms.gov/pdf/Training/2014_Wildland_Fire_Academy.pdf for the Wildland Fire Academy 2014 Brochure. Deadline is September 23, 2014.

2014

News From



MFA Board Approves New Strategic Plan

At the MFA Summer Board Meeting, directors approved a new strategic plan prepared by a team of MFA participants, committee chairs and Executive Committee members. This group, led by First Vice President Dana Carl Little, developed a new Strategic Plan for 2014 - 2019. To view a copy of the Strategic Plan, please visit the [MFA website](#). We encourage all MFA members to become involved in our committees as we work to implement the plan.

MFA Annual Meeting

Angela Holland, MFA 2014 Annual Meeting Chair, invites all members to make plans to attend the October 22 - 24 meeting, which is set for the Golden Nugget in Biloxi. This will be the first time for MFA to return to the Mississippi Gulf Coast since before Hurricane Katrina. Survey results indicated MFA members wanted to return to the Gulf Coast. A complete meeting announcement and registration information will be sent by email and mail in the next couple of weeks.

Speakers invited to be on program this year include Mississippi's Lieutenant Governor, Tate Reeves; Dave Tenny, President /CEO of the National Alliance of Forest Owners; Rusty Booker, Vice President Procurement, Drax Biomass International; Tom Martin, President/CEO of the American Forest Foundation; Tim Punke, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Public Policy at Plum Creek, and Zachary Hiatt, Senior Timberlands Counsel Law Department at Weyerhaeuser.

The Annual MFA Golf Tournament will be played on Thursday, October 23 at Shell Landing Golf Club. Mississippi Business Journal selected Shell Landing as the Best Public Golf Course in Mississippi. Tours of local natural areas have also been planned.

Hotel Information

Overnight rooms are available at the Golden Nugget Biloxi for \$79 per night, double or single or \$99 for balcony rooms. To make reservations call (228) 435-5400 and ask for the Mississippi Forestry Association room block, reservation code S146023. Room reservations should be made by Sunday, September 28 to be assured of these per night rates.

Tax Reform Act of 2014

The Mississippi Forestry Association, in conjunction with the [National Alliance of Forest Owners](#) and other partnering associations, signed a letter on tax reform which was sent to Chairman Camp of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee. Please see the [official letter](#) which outlines our support of current tax code provisions that recognize timber as real estate and opposition against new drafts which will change the current law.

National 4-H Competition

The Puckett 4-H Forestry Judging Team recently placed 7th overall in the National 4-H Forestry Judging Competition held in West Virginia. Congratulations to Coach Patrick Lemoine and his team!



PRE-REGISTRATION
OPENS JUNE 23



live, in-woods

30
YEARS

demonstration

**Strong Show,
Solid Investment**

**SEPTEMBER 19-20
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI**

**midsouthforestry.org
662-325-2191**

ANNOUNCING SABCFlex Mobile

Introducing Southern Administrators and Benefit Consultants, Inc. mobile online services. It is now even easier to access your flexible spending balance, submit a claim or received important messages. To download the app go to your Apple App store and type in SABC in the search function. An Android version will be out soon.

Going mobile for fast, convenient access to your information.

Download the application from your Apple App store or our website:
www.sabcflex.com

- BALANCE INFORMATION
- SUBMIT CLAIMS
- MESSAGE CENTER

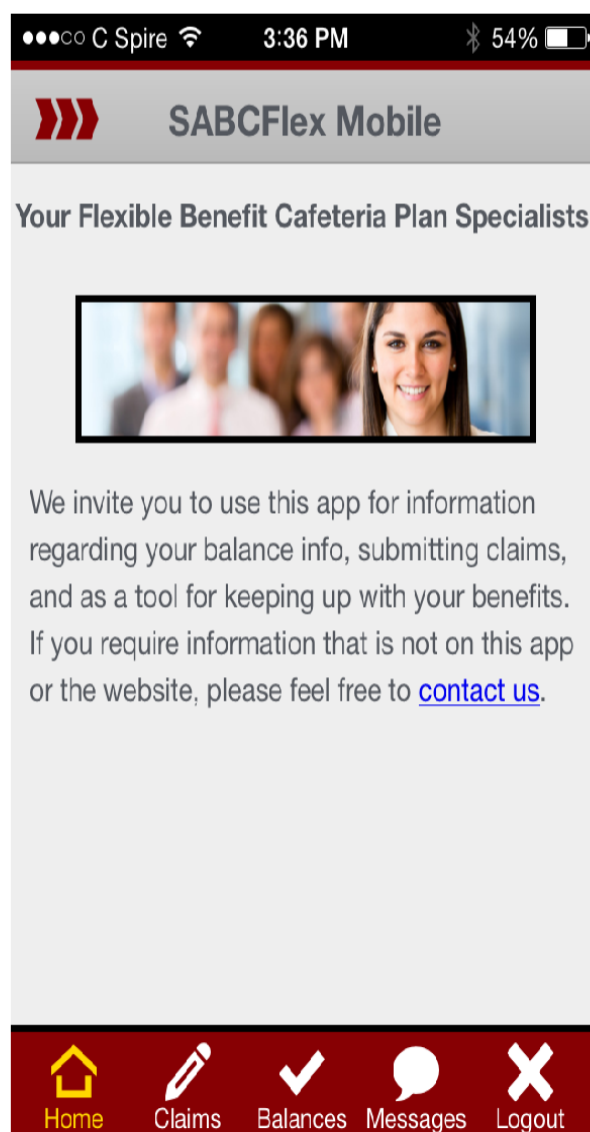
Submit a claim from your mobile app for:

- Reimbursement of an expense
- Validation for a SABC FLEXCard expense.

You can login to your account, utilizing the same login and password you currently use for checking your balance online.

To submit a claim:

- Select claims
- Complete claim form
- Snap Photo using Phones Camera
- Attach receipts/photos
- Sign and submit (signature is same as login).



Are you interested in *BETTER WILDLIFE HABITAT?*

Maybe its time to consider *PRESCRIBED BURNING.*



The Mississippi Partner's for Fish and Wildlife is coordinating and administering

“FIRE ON THE FORTY”

A campaign to promote the use of prescribed burning to enhance wildlife habitat on private lands in South Mississippi.

To learn more about the benefits of prescribed fire, and the availability of financial assistance, please make plans to attend a town-hall meeting at:

**Forrest County MSU Extension Office
952 Sullivan Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Thursday, September 4, 2014
6-7 pm**

For additional information contact Russ Walsh (601-408-3399) or visit
www.mdwfp.com/fireontheforty.



**Are you interested in
BETTER WILDLIFE HABITAT?
Maybe its time to consider
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A campaign to promote the use of prescribed burning to enhance wildlife habitat on private lands in South Mississippi.

To learn more about the benefits of prescribed fire, and the availability of financial assistance, please make plans to attend a town-hall meeting at:

Greene County Vo-Tech Center

173 Vo-tech Road

Leakesville, MS 39451

Tuesday, September 9 • 6-7 pm

**Meal provided • To register, please call MSU Extension at
601.394.2702**

For additional information contact Russ Walsh (601-408-3399) or visit
www.mdwfp.com/fireontheforty.



Safety First . . .

Safety Is In Your Hands - Parking Lots

Parking lots are a common sight in the US and so are accidents that take place in them. A staggering one of every five motor vehicle accidents take place in a parking lot, and 14% of all claims of auto damage involve collisions therein. One of the major reasons behind collisions, injuries and fatalities that happen in parking lots is the false sense of security motorists and pedestrians feel. Pedestrians and drivers expect traffic to move more slowly, which means that caution takes a backseat.

While crashes between two vehicles account for some of these numbers, pedestrians are also often struck by vehicles moving in and out from parking spaces. A simple slip, trip or fall in the parking lot due to uneven surfaces or holes can also result in severe injuries

Tragically, an average of 206 people (drivers and pedestrians) was killed each year in work-related parking lot accidents.

The Plight of Pedestrians

Work Related Parking Lot Accidents

Injuries in parking lots can also mean lost working days and lost productivity when an employee is involved. In some cases, the company may have to bear the entire cost and pay compensation when an employee is injured while performing an activity relating to work, in a parking lot owned or run by the company.

A [research report](#) published by Gregory M. Fayard, (Economist with the BLS) on work-related fatal injuries in parking lots (1993-2002) reveals that pedestrian fatalities make up 13 per cent of all the accidents that occur in parking lots. According to the 2010 report published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 126 of the total 277 pedestrians injured due to being struck by a vehicle or mobile equipment at workplace took place in a parking lot.

Pedestrian Accidents in Parking/Parking Lots Involving Children

NHTSA estimates that 22 percent (more than one-fifth) of children between ages 5 and 9 killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. Most of these accidents occurred because drivers failed to see kids while backing up their vehicles.

Causes of Parking Lot Accidents

- Drivers entering a parking lot keep an eye on a vacant spot and often neglect to watch for other drivers and pedestrians who are on the move.
- Many drivers pull 'head in' to a parking spot after which they must back out. While backing out, blind zones created by vehicles parked alongside the spot obstruct the driver's vision.
- Traffic laws aren't enforceable in parking lots, which can create reckless driving and confusion.
- Parking lots are congested, accommodating a high amount of vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

Dangerous Parts of a Parking Lot

- Places with low or dim lighting in parking lots are likelier sites for criminal activity, and the low visibility can also result in slips, trips and falls.
- Parts of a parking lot where snow or debris accumulates can prove dangerous to drivers and pedestrians alike.
- The exit of a parking lot can also be risky. Boom gates used by parking lots to restrict the movement of vehicles without paying the parking charges can injure drivers, passengers or pedestrians who are trying to move past it.

Tips For Staying Safe in a Parking Lot

- 25 percent of all parking lot accidents are caused by vehicles backing up. It is advisable that you watch out for other drivers and pedestrians while doing so.
- Comply with the signs posted like stop

First Time, Every Time

signs or speed limit signs.

- Turn on headlights (during daytime too) to reduce the risk of crashing.
- Try to park farther away from the entrance, where traffic is less congested.
- Buckle up. Accidents can happen anytime.
- Park in areas that are well-lit.
- Parking lot rules also apply to pedestrians. Refrain from walking in the middle of the lane, do not text while walking, and make use of marked crosswalks

MFC Safety Manual on parking and backing your MFC vehicle.

Where possible, MFC vehicles will be parked so that they can be driven off forward without the need to back up. Drivers should ensure that vehicle is secure by put-

ting the transmission in "park" or, if standard transmission, "reverse". The parking brake should also be employed. Front wheels should be turned to the curb or side of road. It is unlawful to permit a motor vehicle to stand unattended without first stopping the engine.

In the event it becomes necessary to back a vehicle, the driver should first walk around the vehicle to check for hidden, unseen, or un-noticed obstacles. If a passenger or other MFC employee is present, the driver will have them direct the backing procedure to ensure that the vehicle does not back into anything.



Below is the table that accounts for non-traffic fatalities and injuries as per NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis for the year 2007:

Event	Fatalities	Injuries
Non-occupant in Non-traffic Crash: Backing Vehicle	99	2,000
Non-occupant Struck by Driverless Vehicle	5	<500
Non-occupant in Non-traffic Crash: Forward-Moving Vehicle	106	3,000
Total (approx)	210	5,000